

College Drinking

Problem

College is for getting an education. That's why parents spend thousands of dollars to send their children to get a better education further than high school, but I don't think that's the only thing on the students mind when they are thinking about college or just arrived to college. They're expecting the freedom away from their parents so they can do whatever they want, but some take it too far and waste so much money just trying to be social. So why? Why do students pay thousands of dollars just to party, and what's the cause? In this paper I found research from multiple academic journals, "The Disparity Between Social Drinking Motives And Social Outcomes: A New Perspective On College Student Drinking"(2013) and "Social Anxiety Symptoms and Drinking Behaviors Among College Students: The Mediating Effects of Drinking Motives"(2014). Lastly, I conducted data by interviewing students at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

Background

"Roughly 82% of college students consume alcohol with 37% of those students participating in heavy episodic drinking"(Hill, 2014,pg 710). I feel the reason for this statistic is due to peer pressure. A lot of students never have touched alcohol until they came to college. On the other hand students drink just for the social aspect, and to make friends. "As drinking motives are based, in part, on expectations of desired outcomes, social drinking motives may be related to a

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perception that drinking alcohol might contribute to positive social outcomes such as friendships”(Grant, 2013, pg 97). Going out means you don’t see the same people you see in the classroom, your dorm, or around campus. Its people you have never really seen before, and get to engage in conversations about things you might actually have things in common with. But that doesn’t mean drinking should be the cause of it. College drinking is not all positive on any means. “College student drinking is associated with increased risks of a myriad of consequences including academic problems, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and unintentional death”(Grant, 2013,pg 96). College Drinking is very dangerous if you do not take is seriously. It can very easily get you kicked out of school, fined, or even death. So why do so many students do this?

Method

Since we have a better understanding of the results from college drinking, why do students risk going out and drinking when there are so many negative outcomes from it? I understand going out is nice once in a while, but there are students who go out every weekend, and ruin their future because they’re too exhausted from the night before. What’s the point? I interviewed some students for some understanding for this.

Findings

As I interviewed students for the reasons why they drink some students say they drink because they want to have fun. They get together with their friends,

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pregame, and then go to the actual party and drink there too. Other students said

that there is nothing else to do at Bloomsburg so they just go out and party.

Meanwhile students go out and drink to forget about their awful and stressful week.

I believe you shouldn't rely on alcohol to cure your problems about an awful week

you had. If anything it would make it worse due to the horrible hangover the

morning after. Doesn't sound like a resolution to me.

Conclusion

I found that most of my findings were similar to my research. I found that majority of students go out and drink to socialize and meet more people. My interviews with students made me realize that a huge factor in college drinking is peer pressure. They feel their friends won't ask to hang out if they don't do what they're doing, so they feel compelled to do so. During my research I feel academic articles don't give the full detail rather when I interviewed students who actually went through this, and are telling me about their experiences. In all, students go out and drink for many reasons whether it be just going out to have fun, relieve stress from a stressful week, socialize, and to meet new people. All those reasons shouldn't be an excuse to drink. You can do all those things without including alcohol, and I think we need to inform students that this is possible.

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Works Cited

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